GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
RURAL DEVELOPMENT
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2099
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BPL LIST
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Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the total number of Below Poverty Line (BPL) persons identified in States/UTs should not exceed the number of BPL persons, as estimated by the Planning Commission in that State/UT;

(b) if so, the rationale thereof,

(c) whether the Government proposes to have a realistic figure of BPL people in the country; and

(d) if so, the reasons for not crossing estimates of Planning Commission?

Answer

MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI SURYAKANTA PATIL)

(a) to (d) The number and proportion of population living below the poverty line in the Country is estimated by the Planning Commission from a large sample survey of consumer expenditure after an interval of five years approximately. The Ministry of Rural Development provides financial and technical support to the States & UTs to conduct a BPL Census generally in the beginning of a Five Year Plan to identify the rural poor who could be assisted under its various programmes. In the guidelines of the last BPL Census 2002, the States were given the option to identify the BPL families in the rural areas which may be equal to the poverty estimates of Planning Commission for 1999-2000 or the Adjusted Share (worked out by the Planning Commission) whichever was higher with additional 10% on account of transient poor. According to poverty estimates of 1999-2000 the number of rural BPL Households was worked out as 3.86 crore and as per adjusted share this number was 4.88 crore. Thus, with 10% additionality as stated above the States and UTs were allowed to identify 5.46 crore rural households as BPL.Therefore, the States/UTs were given flexibility in identification of rural BPL families which was much higher to the poverty estimates of Planning Commission.